

Message Text

SECRET

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61

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 L-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1884

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USCINCEUR

SECDEF

S E C R E T BEIRUT 15060

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, LE, IR

SUBJ: ARMS AID FOR LEBANON

REF: TEHRAN 10611

1. LEBANESE MINISTER OF DEFENSE JOSEPH SKAFF
RECENTLY APPROCHED ME CONCERNING LEBANON'S INTENTION
TO OBTAIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM IRAN. ALTHOUGH
SKAFF DID NOT INDICATE TYPES OF WEAPONS, WE ALMOST
CERTAIN GOL SEEKING ADDITIONAL M 118'S, TOW MISSILES, AND TACTICAL
RADIOS. HE REALIZED THAT IRANIANS WOULD HAVE TO OBTAIN
USG PERMISSION TO TRANSFER SUCH EQUIPMENT AND ASKED WHAT
OUR ATTITUDE WOULD BE IF IRANIANS WERE WILLING TO HELP
THEM.

2. I REPLIED THAT I WOULD HAVE TO REFER MATTER TO
DEPARTMENT FOR A DECISION. I DID POINT OUT THAT IT
SEEMED DOUBTFUL TO ME THAT IRANIANS WOULD BE
WILLINT TO TRANSFER MODERN EQUIPMENT UNLESS THEY WERE
SURE OF QUICK REPLACEMENTS. SUCH DID NOT SEEM LIKELY
AS DELIVERY TIMES FOR IRAN WOULD PROBABLY BE EXACTLY THE
SAME AS THEY WOULD BE FOR LEBANON. CONSEQUENTLY,

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DIFFICULT FOR ME TO SEE UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES HOW IRAN

COULD BE HELPFUL. IN ANY EVENT, I AGREED TO SEEK
DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE.

3. WE DUBIOUS GOL CAN WORK OUT ADVANTAGEOUS ARRANGEMENT
WITH IRAN. WOULD HOPE, HOWEVER, DEPT. WOULD POSE NO RPT
NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE IF IRANIANS WILLING RELEASE
EQUIPMENT TO GOL IN KNOWLEDGE EARLY REPLACEMENT UNLIKELY.
APPRECIATE GUIDANCE SOONEST.
HOUGHTON

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NNN

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